

In the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the present application:

1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) A prepaid wireless communication system, comprising:
 - (a) at least one wireless service provider;
 - (b) a prepaid application server that stores an amount of authorized time units available in a registered account for use with said wireless service provider; and
 - (c) a mobile device containing a subscriber identity module (SIM) that corresponds to said registered account on the prepaid application server, wherein the SIM includes memory that stores said amount of time units available in the account, and wherein the SIM independently monitors the duration of wireless service used by the mobile device and decreases the amount of available time units in memory accordingly, and wherein the SIM disconnects the mobile device from the wireless service if the amount of available time units reaches zero.
34. (New) The prepaid wireless communication system according to claim 33, wherein after completion of each wireless service use by said mobile device, the wireless service provider sends the prepaid application server a record detailing the duration of said use, wherein the prepaid application server decreases the amount of available time units in said registered account by said duration and deactivates the account if the amount of available time units reaches zero.
35. (New) The prepaid wireless communication system according to claim 34, wherein if the duration of use reported by the wireless service provider exceeds the authorized amount of available time units for said account, the prepaid application server concludes fraudulent activity and deactivates the mobile device.

36. (New) The prepaid wireless communication system according to claim 33, wherein the mobile device contacts the prepaid application server during call setup with the wireless service provider and again during call teardown, allowing the prepaid application server to determine the duration of wireless service use.
37. (New) The prepaid wireless communication system according to claim 33, wherein if additional time units are purchased for said registered account, the prepaid application server updates the amount units of available time in the account and sends a message to the mobile device to update the amount of available time units stored in the SIM to bring the SIM into agreement with the prepaid application server.
38. (New) The prepaid wireless communication system according to claim 37, wherein the prepaid application server updates the SIM via a short message service (SMS) message.
39. (New) The prepaid wireless communication system according to claim 33, wherein the mobile device utilizes wireless services via GSM, CDMA, TDMA, or GPRS communications protocol.
40. (New) The prepaid wireless communication system according to claim 33, wherein the SIM provides a notification to a user when the amount of available time units reaches one or more thresholds.
41. (New) The prepaid wireless communication system according to claim 33, wherein said registered account is authorized to use said available time units with multiple wireless service providers.

42. (New) A subscriber identity module (SIM) for use in a mobile, wireless communication device, the SIM comprising:
 - (a) memory for storing an amount of authorized time units available for use with at least one wireless service provider, wherein the SIM corresponds with a registered account with a prepaid service provider; and
 - (b) a prepaid application that authorizes use of a wireless communication service by the mobile device, wherein the prepaid application monitors the duration of wireless service use by the mobile device and decreases the amount of available time units in memory accordingly, and wherein the prepaid application disconnects the mobile device from the wireless service if the amount of available time units reaches zero.
43. (New) The subscriber identity module (SIM) according to claim 42, wherein if additional flat-rate time units are purchased for said registered account, the prepaid service provider updates the amount of available time units in the account and sends a message to the mobile device to update the amount of available time units stored in the SIM to bring the SIM into agreement with the prepaid service account.
44. (New) The subscriber identity module (SIM) according to claim 43, wherein the prepaid application server updates the SIM via a short message service (SMS) message.
45. (New) The subscriber identity module (SIM) according to claim 42, wherein the mobile device utilizes wireless services via GSM, CDMA, TDMA, or GPRS communications protocol.
46. (New) The subscriber identity module (SIM) according to claim 42, wherein the SIM provides a notification to a user when the amount of available time units reaches one or more thresholds.

47. (New) The subscriber identity module (SIM) according to claim 42, wherein the SIM is authorized to use said available time units with multiple wireless service providers.
48. (New) A prepaid communication service, comprising:
 - (a) a database of registered user accounts, wherein said accounts include prepaid amounts of authorized time units available for use with wireless service providers; and
 - (b) a prepaid application that manages the registered accounts and decreases the amount of available time units in each account according to the duration of wireless service use by mobile devices associated with said accounts, and wherein the prepaid application deactivates an account if the amount of available time units in that account reaches zero;
 - (c) wherein, upon completion of each wireless service use by a registered account, the prepaid application is notified of the duration of said wireless service via a message from a wireless service provider.
49. (New) The prepaid communication service according to claim 48, wherein if additional time units are purchased for a registered account, the prepaid application updates the amount of available time in the account and sends a message to a mobile device to update the amount of available time units stored in a subscriber identity module (SIM) that corresponds to said account.
50. (New) The prepaid communication service according to claim 49, wherein the SIM independently monitors the duration of wireless service used by the mobile device and decreases the amount of available time units in memory accordingly, and wherein the SIM disconnects the mobile device from the wireless service if the amount of available time units reaches zero.

51. (New) The prepaid communication service according to claim 48, wherein if the duration of use reported by the wireless service provider exceeds the authorized amount of available time units for said account, the prepaid application server concludes fraudulent activity and deactivates the mobile device.